

McCloud River Falls Trail



About McCloud River Falls Trail

“The McCloud River Trail passes three beautiful waterfalls [adjacent to Fowlers Campground] as it winds through a canyon of basalt lava rock. This smooth, well-maintained trail offers summer swimming, fall foliage, and an early spring thaw, making it fun and accessible year-round. The section between the Lower Falls and Fowlers Campground is paved for wheelchairs (ADA compliant). All three overlooks have ADA features” (Mt Shasta Trail Association).

Geology

“The McCloud River Canyon beautifully displays the eruptive history of nearby Mt Shasta as it carves its way through multiple layers of basalt lava rock and volcanic mud flows. Of particular interest are the many outcrops of columnar basalt, which has a unique geometric shape. These textures form as lava flows cool and contract, creating regularly spaced vertical fractures” (Mt Shasta Trail Association).

Trail Information Via McCloud Ranger District

For more information contact the McCloud Ranger District, 2019 Forest Road McCloud Ca., or by calling 530-964-2184. Office Hours are 8:00- 4:30, Mon-Fri Closed on Holidays.

At the trailhead you will find a day use area with bear proof trash bins, restrooms, water spigots, picnic tables, and upright BBQ grills to prepare a meal before or after what you will find to be a wonderful day hike. The non-motorized multi-user trail follows the McCloud River for approximately 15 miles beginning at Lower Falls until its terminus at Algoma Campground. You may also join the trail near the very Northeastern campsite in the popular Fowler's Campground. It is rated as an ‘Easy’ hike, but there is one place along the trail that could prove difficult to some hikers and cyclists, which is the short section of trail from Middle Falls to the Middle Falls overlook.

This is a short switchback section of trail and involves a little bit of an uphill climb, including stairs.

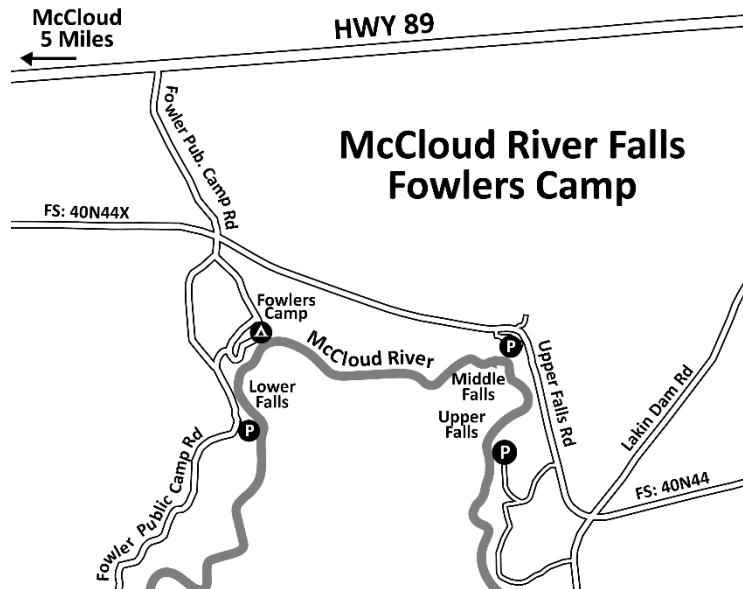
What is there to see or do?

The Lower Falls is stocked by the California Department Fish and Wildlife during fishing season and many of the McCloud’s tributaries are the home of Redband Trout. The 15’ tall Lower falls is also an incredibly fun place to take a dip. Be forewarned, the temperature of the pool stays in the low 50’s, which some find quite cold.

Middle Falls, the most picturesque of the three falls is an easy 1.3 mile hike up stream from Lower Falls and like the others presents wonderful opportunities for swimming, fishing, photography, and wildlife viewing. It is over 50 feet high and 100 feet across. From here you must hike up the northern hillside along a short switchback/staircase trail section to get to the Middle Falls overlook and the continuation of the McCloud River Trail.

Directions:

From McCloud travel 5 miles southeast along Highway 89. You will see a Forest Service sign on the left-hand side of highway that reads **Fowlers and Lower Falls**. Turn right onto the McCloud River Loop Road (40N44) at this sign. Continue along this road through the intersection and stay right at the fork. (The left will take you to the campground). Soon you will come to the Lower Falls Day Use and parking area. The trailhead (TH) for the McCloud River Trail starts at the staircase next to the Lower Falls overlook.



MCLOUD RIVER FALLS TRAIL MAP

